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2025 AMEC Awards celebrate the best of Australia's exploration and mining industry

Last night, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) hosted its annual Awards Gala Dinner at Crown Perth, bringing together leaders from the exploration and mining industry to celebrate the people and organisations driving the future of Australia's resources industry.

Following a highly competitive field of finalists across six award categories, this year's winners exemplify the leadership, innovation, community spirit and technical excellence that continue to define the sector.

The Awards celebrate excellence in Environment, Diversity and Inclusion, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Empowerment, Community Contribution, and Media.

Together with the prestigious Prospector Award for the most significant mineral deposit discovery, awarded to the exploration team at Encounter Resources for the Aileron Discovery; Peter Bewick, Mark Broadie, Dr Jon Hronsky, Sarah James, Will Robinson, and Kate Vinnicombe.

AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce said, "The calibre of nominees this year demonstrated the breadth of contributions being made across the industry.

"It tells an important story about the modern resources sector.

"Stories of the ingenuity of our explorers, the care our companies show for people, communities and the environment, plus the commitment our industry has to lifting standards and delivering positive outcomes across Australia."

A full room of AMEC members, project partners, parliamentary and departmental representatives, and industry supporters gathered to acknowledge the achievements that often take place out of the spotlight, yet play an essential role strengthening the nation's economic future.

Mr Pearce added, "Our country's prosperity is built on the strength of the resources industry, but it's the actions people take within their communities and workplaces that create lasting impact."

With a history spanning more than three decades, the AMEC Awards remain one of the most respected honours in the Australian resources calendar. This year's winners celebrate excellence being delivered across the nation.

"It's an incredible privilege for AMEC to recognise their work."

2025 AMEC Award Winners

Prospector Award - sponsored by DDH1
Winner: Peter Bewick, Mark Broadie, Dr Jon Hronsky, Sarah James, Will Robinson, Kate Vinnicombe, for the Aileron Discovery
The exploration team at Encounter Resources were a standout winner of the prestigious Prospector Award, with the Aleiron Discovery, in the West Arunta region of Western Australia. A region yet to be fully realised for its potential, this achievement is over 20 years in the making and testament to their conviction, abilities and perseverance. With extensive carbonatite structures and a high grade niobium discovery, there is still plenty to learn from the province, with potential for rare earths, copper and gold in the future.

Environment Award – sponsored by Hetherington
Winner: Bellevue Gold, for net zero emissions in 2025
After setting the ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2026, Bellevue achieved its goal ahead of schedule and are currently Australia's most renewably powered mining operation.
Other finalists: Leichhardt Industrials Group and Vertex Minerals

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Empowerment Award - sponsored by Agreement Hub
Winner: Greatland Resources, for their Martu Business Development Program
The partnership between Greatland, Australian Business Volunteers and the Martu communities has included employment, training, education and logistical support. The program has supported 26 Martu entrepreneurs across a range of businesses and continues to grow.
Other finalists: Blackrock Industries for their Second Chance for Change initiative

Community Contribution Award - sponsored by Parabellum
Winner: Metro Mining and the Johnathan Thurston Academy, for programs empowering Cape York students
Since 2024 Metro Mining and the Johnathan Thurston Academy have worked together to create an agile program that builds courage, confidence and self belief in the students of Cape York.
Other finalists: Fortescue, Heritage Minerals, and Larvotto Resources

Diversity and Inclusion Award - sponsored by UTM Global
Winner: Hancock Iron Ore, for their Vacation Care Program
In its second year and partnering with Kidsco, the school holiday program is 75% subsidised by the Chair of Hancock Iron Ore. It provides care for employee children during school holidays, allowing staff to save annual leave for family holidays or special trips.
Other finalists: AMETS, Ausenco, and PLS

Media Award - sponsored by Corporate Traveller
Winner: Adrian Rauso – The West Australian, for "Shire's mining rate hike killed off"
Adrian's initial reporting on the Shire of Coollgardie lifting rates by 119% raised concern across the industry, with follow-ups leading to the WA Local Government Minister stepping in to kill it off. It also led to further investigations into regional shires, looking to use miscellaneous rates to hike fees on mining companies.

Other finalists: Josh Chiat (Stockhead), Michael Cameron (Paydirt), and Tom Zaunmayr (Business News)

This year there were also two life memberships awarded, something only bestowed on 13 people over the Associations 44-year history.

The inductees to AMEC life membership are Will Robinson and Chris Reed. Both serving on the AMEC Council and eventually as President and Vice-President respectively.

During their time together Will and Chris helped guide the Association from a small WA focussed association, to a truly national organisation, with a reputation as a strong and proven advocate for our industry.

Their contributions leave a distinctly positive mark on the entire Association and our industry and are worthy of the highest recognition awarded.

AMEC congratulates these two champions of industry and thanks all nominees, finalists, judges and industry supporters who contributed to this year's awards program, and congratulates the 2025 AMEC Award winners for their outstanding achievements.

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For further information, photographs, vision or to interview Warren Pearce, please contact: Ryan Rampling, National Manager – Media & Communications – 0419 809 341 | ryan.rampling@amec.org.au